



Preface

The Library of Virginia first published *Planning for Library Excellence* in 1988. In 1994 a committee of the Virginia Library Association (VLA) reviewing the formula for state aid to public libraries suggested that *Planning for Library Excellence* be revised. The Librarian of Virginia requested that VLA begin the process to revise the document, and a VLA committee was appointed to do so. In 1995 the Virginia Public Library Directors Association (VPLDA) asked for, and was granted, the responsibility for the revision.

Several VPLDA committees worked on various sections of the document over the next few years. Public library directors and staff reviewed and commented on several drafts during this time. The VPLDA Executive Board reviewed the work of the *Planning for Library Excellence* Committee in June 1999. At that time the Executive Board requested the Library Development and Networking Division at the Library of Virginia to complete the revision process.

The revision that follows replaces the previous edition. The new *Planning for Library Excellence* is a tool for use by public libraries regardless of type, size, or locale. The format allows for updates of individual sections as necessary or desirable. In addition to standards and guidelines, planning profiles are also included to assist libraries in assessment, long-range and strategic planning, measurement, and evaluation.

Planning for Library Excellence is a dynamic document. In order for it to continue as an effective planning tool, it will be periodically reviewed and adapted to reflect changes in library trends and library services and the availability of new data.

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